(b) if so, what are the basic arguments on both sides;

(c) whether any effort has been made to bridge the gap;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether such disputes harm the growth of tourism; and

(f) the steps proposed to resolve this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Tourism has advised the approved hotels to charge single tariff both in ioreign currencies as well as in Indian Rupees. Some of the hotels have gone to the court against this decision. The matter is sub-judice.

Availability of Hotel Rooms

3976. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current hotel rooms, availability in India

(b) whether it compares very pooriy to the hotel rooms availability with other countries;

(c) whether various Indian tourism offices abroad reported on the comparative hotel room availability in other countries; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to improve hotel room availability in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Presently there are about 65000 hotel rooms in the approved sector in the country.

(b) and (c) The Indian Tourist Offices located abroad have reported the following availability of hotel rooms in their markets. Some of them are as under:—

USA	3.6 million hotel rooms
Canada	327400 hotel rooms
Sweden	93500 hotel rooms
Israel	37000 hotel rooms
Netherlands	47700 hotel rooms
Belgium	41585 hotel rooms
Luxemburg	8384 hotel rooms
U.K.	402934 hotel beds
Italy	1724000 hotel beds
Spain	10008812 hotel beds

(d) The construction of hotels is a private sector activity. The Govt, of India extends fiscal benefits, duty concessions

as well as interest subsidy in order to catalyse private investment. The Govt, has also liberalised guidelines for foreign investment as well as foreign collaboration for attracting investment in the tourism sector.

विदेशी पर्यटकों के संबंध में अध्ययन रिपोर्ट

3977.**श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह**:

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार द्वारा भारत में आने वाले विदेशी पर्यटकों के संबंध में कोई अध्ययन रिपोर्ट तैयार की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में औसतन प्रतिवर्ष आने वाले विदेशी पर्ययटकों की देश-वार कुल संख्या कितनी है, और इनमें से किन-किन देशों के कितने-कितने प्रतिशत पर्यटक होते हैं; और

(ग) विदेशी पर्यटक भारत में मुख्यतया किन-किन विशेषताओं को देखना और अध्ययन करना अधिक पसन्द करते हैं?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांग): (क) जी, हां।